

IN HONOR OF STEPHEN JEROME

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 45th year of Mr. Stephen Jerome's work as president of Monroe College, who has given four and a half decades to providing service to the faculty, staff, and students. Mr. Jerome's efforts have been truly outstanding. Because of his work, Monroe has become a regionally-accredited college that provides a core value of unmatched personal and professional service to more than ten thousand students. He achieves this by providing an environment that solidifies the fullest potential of each student.

As President, Mr. Jerome has fostered many new applications to the university. These new programs include the introduction of the college's championship-caliber athletic programs and a unique foundation that can only be described as an excellent work environment; this has lead to the college becoming the number one provider of undergraduate degrees to minority students in New York State. As well as supporting award-winning student academic organizations, Mr. Jerome is thoroughly involved in the community. He has helped to provide lighting, security, street cleaning, and holiday parties for children. Mr. Jerome also provides entrepreneurial assistance to the local neighborhood residents and businesses. In accordance with his community efforts, Mr. Jerome has offered college-level classes at the high school level, through the Jumpstart program, to encourage young students to attend college.

Even as the active President of Monroe College, Mr. Jerome continues to assume many leadership roles. He is currently the President of the New York State Association of Proprietary Colleges and has held this position for over two decades. He also holds a position as a Trustee of the Bronx Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Jerome has formerly been a member of the College Presidents' Council for the Governor's office on New York State Financial Aid and been the former Commissioner of the Accrediting Commission of the Association of Independent Colleges and Schools. As a former member of the New York State Education Commissioner's Advisory Council on Higher Education and the former President of the Fordham Road Area Development corporation, it is apparent that no amount of work can deter Mr. Jerome's efforts in providing for the community and improving many systems of education.

With all of the years of service Mr. Jerome has given, and all of the leadership positions that he has taken upon himself, he still remains a family man. With his wife Leslie, he instills the importance of hard work and education to their three children: Marc, Evan, and Laura, who pass along his teachings to his 9 young grandchildren. Stephen Jerome has gone above and beyond for Monroe College and the community. This 45th anniversary of his time at the college can act as a reminder to all who were ever inspired, given an opportunity, or thrived within the higher standards he implemented that these effects came from the hard work and drive of one man, the President of Monroe College, The Leader of

many institutions, the family man, Mr. Stephen Jerome.

TRIBUTE TO JOE FRAZIER**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2011

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a notable South Carolinian, who rose from humble beginnings to make an indelible mark on the world. Smokin' Joe—Joe Frazier—passed from this life on November 7, 2011, but his legacy lives on through his extraordinary achievements in the boxing ring.

Joe Frazier was born to sharecroppers in Beaufort, South Carolina, on June 22, 1944. He was one of 13 children, who never had "a little-boy life." He grew up helping his father chop wood. His father had lost his left arm after being shot as a young man, and Joe always took the left handle on a two-handed saw, which he attributes to helping him build his devastating left hook.

Most people know of Joe Frazier's athletic accomplishments as America's first gold-medal winning boxer and his thrilling defeat of Muhammad Ali in March 1971. It was what occurred on April 7, 1971, that provided me my greatest memory of the boxing legend.

At the time, I was the first African American to hold an advisory position with a sitting South Carolina governor. Governor John West hired me in January 1971 and just three months later, the governor and the South Carolina Legislature invited Joe Frazier, fresh off his defeat of Ali, to come speak to the South Carolina General Assembly.

This was a remarkable occasion. In January 1971, the first three African Americans since Reconstruction were sworn in as members of the South Carolina House of Representatives. Desegregation was just beginning to take hold in many public schools in the state. And the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission had not yet been established to eliminate and prevent unlawful discrimination.

Joe Frazier was the first African American since Reconstruction to receive an invitation to speak to the South Carolina General Assembly. As World Heavyweight Champion, he could have easily declined the opportunity. Instead, he chose to embrace it. He used the opportunity to try and build bridges and encourage race relations.

In his remarks, Smokin' Joe said our country could get beyond our racial problems if blacks and whites would "play together, work together and pray together." He went on to say, "We must save our people, and when I say 'our people' I mean white and black. We need to quit thinking about who drives the fanciest car or who is my little daughter going to play with, who is she going to sit next to in school. We don't have time for that." His 10-year-old daughter then stole the show by exclaiming, "Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee. My daddy is the one who whipped Muhammad Ali."

But Joe Frazier's most poignant comments were when he talked about attaining his dreams. "I am here today as a young man whose boyhood dream was realized when I won the heavyweight championship of the world." That was proof he said "you can do

anything you want to do if you really put your heart and soul and mind into it."

That young man with his dream fulfilled used that same trip back to South Carolina to purchase his mother, Dolly Frazier, a new home to fulfill one of her dreams. He moved his widowed mother and his sisters, who remained at home, into what became known as the Frazier Plantation near Yemassee, South Carolina. This was a far cry from the small home he grew up in without indoor plumbing and holes in the roof.

I had the great fortune of visiting and dining with Joe, his mother and sisters in the new Frazier homestead. They were great supporters of my political endeavors, and they remained salt-of-the-earth people despite the success of the youngest Frazier son.

Joe Frazier died at the age of 67 in his adopted home of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He, like so many other young African Americans born in the segregated South, left to find better opportunities in the world. In doing so, Smokin' Joe made the world a better place.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in celebrating the remarkable life of Joe Frazier. He will always represent the extraordinary combination of talent and tenacity. He was blessed with tremendous determination and a mental toughness that served him well as a boxer and outstanding human being. He served as an inspiration to so many, and that is a true sign of a life well lived.

**HONORING RON GASTIA FOR HIS
SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF
BANGOR, ME**

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2011

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bangor Police Chief Ron Gastia for his remarkable leadership in raising awareness on the bath salts crisis that is currently sweeping through the nation.

Chief Gastia has been a trusted and effective member of Maine law enforcement for nearly three decades. Since becoming chief of Bangor PD in 2007, Ron has gone above and beyond to make the city safer for its residents. In particular, his exemplary response to the sudden emergence of the synthetic drug known as "bath salts" illustrates the impressive scope of his leadership.

In the last year, Bangor and several surrounding areas have been flooded with a synthetic hallucinogenic stimulant known as "bath salts." Although largely unknown a year ago, bath salts have become one of the preeminent health and safety issues in Maine. The reported incidents involving this highly dangerous drug have skyrocketed in recent months, reaching epidemic levels in Maine and throughout the country.

Chief Gastia's efforts to raise awareness about this crisis have been remarkable. In addition to being vocal in the media, he was instrumental in working with state legislators to criminalize the drug in Maine. Further, on October 20, 2011 Chief Gastia briefed me, the Office of National Drug Control Policy Deputy Director Benjamin Tucker and an assembled body of federal law enforcement officials on